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THE CAMP AT LAKEHURST.

BY WM. T. DAVIS.

The subject of a July outing to be centered about the national holiday was several times discussed at the meetings of that society of entomologists which bears a dual name, and meets oft times in New York, Brooklyn and out in the country. It was finally decided that we camp near Lakehurst, N. J., especially as Mr. Charles E. Sleight was willing to loan six tents for the occasion, which when supplied with bed-ticks stuffed with pine-needles, blankets and mosquito netting, were guaranteed to offer the comforts of home. About a large spreading chestnut tree that some hopeful person had imported into the pine-barrens years ago, and planted on a little farm now abandoned, we pitched our tents, and while we worked we kept an eye open for the ever-present insects.

When we were raking pine-needles for beds, we uncovered a *Pasimachus*, and indeed this is a very good way to discover these beetles, as we have seen several others thus found while raking among the pines of Long Island. When busy with the tents we saw the tag end of a small army of the shining slave-making ant (*Polyergus lucidus*) just returning from a raid on some unfortunate colony. It may be of interest to mention that we have known of a nest of these slave makers, resident at Lakehurst under two old railroad ties lying close together, since July, 1907. They only occupy part of the space and have *Formica schaufussi* slaves. Under the same old ties is a nest of *Formica difficilis*. Both colonies are still in a flourishing condition and apparently get along harmoniously.

The camp was ready on the evening of July 2, and eighteen members attended,* some arriving on the following day. A long table had been arranged beneath the shade of the spreading chestnut about which our interest centered, not only at meal time, but when the lanterns were lit, for then many insects were attracted. Prof. Smith was busy identifying mosquitoes provided principally by Dr. Lutz, for the evening was cool and *Culex* could only be caught with bait to its liking. But if the evening of the second was cool, the evenings of the third, fourth and fifth of July were frigid by comparison. The mosquitoes forgot us entirely, and we sought the "tent flies" in which we wrapped ourselves, and we were gratefully warmed by the log fire that we built on the evening of the celebration of our national holiday.

While the nights were cold the days were perfectly clear, and warm enough to coax forth the butterflies and other insects. Thus we captured several *Pamphila attalus* and *Pamphila arogos*, both species being found in damp places, not far from the haunts of *Neonympha phocion* and *Chrysophanus epixanthe*.

We collected several *Cicindela consentanea*, which die out in mid-summer about the time that *Cicindela abdominalis* begins to be common. There is often a great variation in size in these latter insects, as is also the case in *C. punctulata*. At Lakehurst there are very dark-colored specimens of *Cicindela generosa*, some of them with but narrow markings approaching a *vulgaris* in pattern. We have not, however, found the bright purplish-colored examples occurring in parts of Staten Island and elsewhere.

On the flowers of the chestnut tree that shaded our table, *Leptura vagans* abounded, varying in color from all black to elytra all brown. On the post-oaks were *Goes debilis*, and on the black-jack oaks, *Goes pulverulentus* and *Goes tessellata*. *Elaphidion unicolor*, *Cacoplia pululata*, *Oberea gracilis*, *Oberea ruficollis* and *Schœnicus puberulus* were also found. A considerable number of Clerids and Buprestids of interest were captured by Messrs. Schaeffer and Bischoff, and Mr. Barber beat from a young pine *Buprestis ultramarina*, a late record for this species.

With the beetles that dropped into our umbrellas, there were also

*Those in attendance were E. A. Bischoff, Wm. T. Davis, Jacob Doll, R. P. Dow, H. G. Barber, Geo. P. Engelhardt, Geo. Franck, W. D. Kearfott and Son, J. J. Levison, Dr. F. E. Lutz, C. L. Pollard, Roland McIlvaine, C. E. Olsen, Chas. Schaeffer, Chas. E. Sleight, Prof. John B. Smith and S. C. Wheat.

some of those curious tree-hoppers which inhabit the pine-barrens, like the ornate *Heliria cristata* to be found on the post-oaks, and *Glassonotus acuminatus* from the black-jacks. There were likewise *Thelia univitta*, *Smilia camelus*, and the "cow-hopper" *Centruchoides perdita*. *Nezara pennsylvanica*, *Largus succinctus*, *Chariesterus antennator*, *Brochymena annulata* and *Apiomerus crassipes* were also collected. On three separate occasions the writer has found this last mentioned bug perched on manure, as if attracted by the flies it hoped to catch in that vicinity. *Aulacostethus marmoratus* and *Tetyra bipunctata* were found, the latter in considerable numbers considering the lateness of the season. It is more common in spring and fall; in July, as Mr. Barber pointed out, chiefly females are to be found. They are perched commonly on the green cones of the pitch-pine, where also some young, no doubt of this species, were found by Mr. Sleight.

The little Cicada, *Tettigæa hieroglyphica* was in great numbers, and we noticed that they had come forth earlier in those places that had been recently burned over. Several of the females had just emerged and had not attained their full colors. Mr. Engelhardt found a few *Cicada lyrice* pupæ skins, and two of the insects just hatching, on the old orchard trees about our camp. We did not hear the insects singing.

Ant-lions came to lights, and we also found them in the day time. The following four species were collected: *Ptynx appendiculatus*, *Ascalaphus quadripunctatus*, *Myrmeleon crudelis* and *Cryptoleon nebulosum*. *Mantispa brunnea* was in considerable numbers. These insects have an odor like slippery-elm, and may occasionally, with the proper atmospheric conditions, be detected thereby. *Mantispa interrupta* was also collected, but in less numbers. We found them mostly on the post-oaks, but they are to be met with on all the trees.

Of dragon flies we collected one old *Anax junius*, in which the central portions of the wings had become much clouded. Also the far from common *Progomphus obscurus*, which is to be found in July at Lakehurst flying up and down several of the ditches near the railroad.

Four species of *Chrysops* flies attacked us, and many Tabanids the tame cow, that would lie patiently on the ground while Mr. Franck removed her tormentors. Through his agency they will next assail some hard working college student of our favorite science.

At night, when it was not too cold, we sugared, the writer using

molasses flavored with fusel oil. It is very easy to carry a small bottle of fusel oil into the country, where molasses can usually be procured at the village store. Nothing has a more groggy odor, and explanations are to be made in prohibition communities and to one's unentomological friends.

At sugar, Mr. Pollard and the writer each caught *Catocala coccinata*, *C. similis* and *C. gracilis*. The last two were also collected on the tree trunks in the day time. Hardly any other moth came to the sugar, but the long-legged Orthopterous insect, *Atlanticus dorsalis*, was in attendance. Both males and females were thus attracted.

In the way of insect architecture we found several sheds made by *Cremastogaster pilosa* over the Coccidæ on the twigs of the pitch pine, and a great many of the tubes made with silk and sand by the larvæ of *Prionapteryx nebulifera*. These usually led from the underground chamber, where the larva was to be found, up the stem of a huckleberry bush to the foliage. Sometimes the food plant was sand myrtle (*Leiophyllum buxifolium*), and Dr. Lutz found one instance where the caterpillar had carried many of the sand myrtle leaves into its burrow. Mr. Daecke has an account of these sand-tubes and their builder in *Entomological News* for January, 1905. Mr. Kearfott has also made observations upon them.

Mr. Doll collected many caterpillars, Mr. Dow many beetles, Mr. Olsen a goodly number of bugs, and no doubt there were many conspicuous finds here unnoticed. And as to all of the little things who can say, for the entomologist always dwells in the land of the unknown.

A NEW HONEY ANT FROM CALIFORNIA.

BY WILLIAM MORTON WHEELER,

BOSTON, MASS.

Myrmecocystus lugubris, new species.

Worker. — Length 2.5–4 mm.

Head distinctly longer than broad, subrectangular, very nearly as broad in front as behind, with straight subparallel sides and rounded posterior border. Eyes somewhat more than one fifth as long as the sides of the head, more convex and larger than in *M. melliger* Forel, smaller than in *M. mexicanus* Wesmael. Ocelli very small. Mandibles 7-toothed, the apical tooth longest and curved. Clypeus convex but not carinate, with broadly and evenly rounded, but not projecting, anterior border. Frontal area obsolescent. Maxillary palpi very long and slender, their terminal joint not